

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 and 25-42 are now pending, claims 1 and 10 being independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 19-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Dependent claims 25-42 have been added.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Lapstun et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,681,045). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently-pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of managing information input via a sensor device and a position-coding pattern printed on a product. The method of claim 1 comprises: reading coordinates of the sensor device based on movement of the sensor device relative to the position-coding pattern, the position-coding pattern including marks that code coordinates on a reference surface, the reference surface including position-coding pattern portions that are used to create a plurality of product types, the position-coding pattern printed on the product including at least a first sub-pattern portion and a second sub-pattern portion; and executing an information management function based on coordinates read from the first sub-pattern portion, the information management

function managing information formed by coordinates read from the second sub-pattern portion. Claim 1 specifies that the sensor device determines a characteristic of at least one of the first sub-pattern portion and the second sub-pattern portion based on at least one coordinate read from the product and definition data stored in a memory of the sensor device.

Therefore, as amended, claim 1 specifies that the sensor device used in the information management method determines a characteristic of at least one of a first sub-pattern portion and a second sub-pattern portion of the product based on at least one coordinate read from the product and definition data stored in memory of the sensor device. Support for this feature can at least be found at page 13, line 26 - page 14, line 23 of the specification.

Lapstun discloses a system for electronically capturing and managing handwritten notes formed by a pen 101 on a page 1. See e.g., Fig. 2. The pen 101 interacts with coded data on the printed page 1 and wirelessly communicates with a printer 601 to transmit data created during interaction with the page 1. The printer 601 sends data to a server 10 for interpretation. Fig. 2; col. 8, lines 22-26; col. 20, lines 9-33. Based on data received from the pen 101, including the page ID, the printer 601 consults a Distributed Name System (DNS) to determine the network address of a server for receiving the data from pen 101. Col. 20, lines 9-33. The page

server 10 stores a page description that allows the page server 10 to interpret the data received from pen 101 via printer 601. Col. 20, lines 29-33.

Thus, in the system of *Lapstun*, it is the network server 10 that stores page layout information needed to interpret data read by the pen 101. Consequently, the technique disclosed in *Lapstun* fails to read on the method currently recited in claim 1, in which the pen stores definition data that allows it to determine a characteristic of at least one of a first sub-pattern portion and a second sub-pattern portion based on at least one coordinate read from the product.

At least for this reason, *Lapstun* fails to anticipate claim 1 or any claim depending therefrom. Furthermore, system claim 10 and its dependent claims define over *Lapstun* at least based on similar reasoning to that set forth above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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